

The Gospel of Mark – A trip back in time! – notes on the Introduction

First to Galilee

The population of Galilee in Jesus' day (according to Josephus) was

Galilee's neighbouring communities were mostly

In Galilee the languages spoken were.....,and, with an ethnic make-up including, and

The most important trade route was the connecting in the East to the of the Roman Empire.

To look at the cities around the lake

On the western shore

1. *Tiberias*

2. *Magdala*

3. *Kinnereth*

Anything special about any of these?

On the Northern shore

1. *Capernaum*

2. *Bethsaida*

Anything special about any of these?

Other cities mentioned

What we know about the lake

It is metres (or feet) below sea level and is fed fresh water by the river which rises on Mount The lake had a plentiful supply of and was the of the region!

There were 3 fertile plains with volcanic soil producing a variety of crops and produce, including: Black basalt rocks and boulders were used to make.....

To understand the Political and Social situation

3 Areas : Galilee in the North – central Samaria – Judah in the South

2 Kings 17. (You might like to look this up later). After the Assyrians conquered the Northern Kingdom of Israel, the area became known as Galilee of After the Babylonian exile, however *Judean* Jews settled there and eventually the area was predominantly Jewish, but not without much and by a succession of kings!

The reputation of the Galileans?.....

King Herod Antipas ruled the region of in the North and also further south, and he aspired to be the or of Judea, a position currently held by His half -brother Philip ruled the area to the North East of the Lake. Herod Antipas had already had killed. His northern headquarters was at on the Lake.

Now a side trip to Jerusalem

The temple had been restored bywho was the father of and

The estimated population of Jerusalem at Passover time was

The *first* exodus for the Israelites was from Then Isaiah prophesied they would return to Jerusalem from after years of exile. Now Jesus leads *us* into the

presence of his Father to have now, and then to be forever in his presence.

Who, what, when and where..... and also why!

None of the four gospels were

The first three Gospels are called the or view gospels

Jesus would have spoken but later as the church spread most common language would have been.....

Mark's gospel was most likely written in Rome and around

This church had previously received a letter from the apostle and met him when he was brought as a prisoner to Rome. Mark had been a companion of who had also spent time in Rome.

The turning point in Nero's attitude to the Christian community was the that broke out in on Nero blamed the Christians and followed.

Mark's sources included both and accounts of Jesus' sayings and actions, plus notes he may have taken from listening to his mentor on their travels.

Mark's main purposes in writing were to ensure that:

1. They knew exactly who Jesus was, and what come, and to him !
2. That the harassed, and soon to be persecuted believers had tools to encourage them to and know that, as Jesus had suffered and died for them so *their* future may hold similar suffering. As the.....so the

Mark introduced his readers to Jesus as the the Mark1:1

The concept of kingdom of God, and the power of Jesus in preaching, healing, casting out demons and his power over nature and even death itself amazed the and also But the religious authorities, very early in the story were

A Pivotal Point in Mark's account is where Peter declares that

A Pivotal verse in Mark's account is where Jesus tells them that *his* kingship is that of a Servant King and that he has come to " many"

The disciples kept missing the clear statements of Jesus that after his death, he would on Would we have done any better than them?

*Meet Messiah, Son of God, and respond to him,
with gratitude and joy, accepting his offers of grace
and love, as he came to give his life a ransom for many, for you.*